

Pastor Robert Rutta

Praying in the Holy Spirit

Jude 20

We have discussed the following commands:

1. Grieve not the Spirit. Eph. 4:30
2. Quench not the Spirit. I Th. 5:19
3. Walk in the Spirit. Gal. 5:2

I want us to consider Jude 20, and the command of "praying in the Holy Ghost."

This is a topic that is so easy to understand, but yet there is much confusion and wrong teaching about it today.

Illus

A few years ago I was looking at a book in a book store on the topic of Praying in the Spirit.

I almost bought it as a reference for how far away from Scripture that the teaching of some can be.

The author took verse after verse and completely misrepresented what they said.

The problem was that he had a series of teachings that he already believed in and he was going to the Bible to twist it and make it agree with what he believed.

(He saw tongues in every reference to prayer, etc)

He had things back to front. That is not how we study the Bible.

We are to go to the Bible with our heart open and say, "Lord, please make your Word clear to me."

² Peter 1:20

²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

I am not to put my opinions into the Bible.

I am instead to seek out what the Lord teaches.

If we simply look at Scripture, it is simple to see what is meant by praying in the Spirit.

There are three basic passages which deal with the matter of praying in the Holy Spirit.

We want to consider each of them to get a good understanding of this term.

Too often we allow others to define our terms.

Many have shied away from this topic and won't even discuss it because of the way the Charismatics have corrupted it.

I. Jude 17-23

Here the command to be "praying in the Holy Ghost" is one of seven exhortations to believers.

1. Remember the words of the apostles. v17
2. Build up yourselves in the faith. v20
3. Pray in the Holy Ghost. v20
4. Keep in the love of God. v21
5. Look for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. v21
6. Have compassion. v22
7. Save others with fear. v23

In v20 we have two truths that are joined

- Building ourselves on our Holy faith
- Praying in the Holy Ghost

In many ways building ourselves on our holy faith would correspond with what we talked about last time "Walking in the Spirit."

We live in a carnal world, but our attention - our mind and heart - should be on the Lord.

He should be foremost on our minds and the way we live should be controlled by how He would want us to live.

Be conscious of the Holy Spirit living in you and allow Him to guide you in your daily walk.

In doing so, you will be building yourself up in your faith.

As we follow that kind of life, then we will find that we are people of prayer.

We will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit - praying for the things that He wants, when He wants.

We are to "pray in the Spirit" as opposed to "pray in the flesh".

Are we asking for things that we want, or are we asking for things that He would want.

For example: we know that the Pharisees were very keen on prayer, but was the Holy Spirit "in them" doing this?

When we pray, are we motivated by religious instinct, showing off, the desire to "get something" or carnality?

True prayer is exercised in the sphere of the Holy Spirit.

It is motivated and empowered by him.

We must be spirit-filled and spirit-controlled to pray properly.

[There is nothing unusual about the idea of praying in the Holy Ghost.

We have a choice of living in the flesh or living in the Spirit.

We are to daily strive to walk with the Holy Spirit leading us in everything that we do.

That includes prayer.]

The Holy Spirit of God leads us in our petitions and generates within us the faith necessary for acceptable and answerable prayer.

This is something that is done consciously as we seek His will and desire to follow it.

II. Ephesians 6:13-20

1) Put on the whole armour of God and stand.

- A. Truth
- B. Righteousness
- C. Peace
- D. Faith
- E. Salvation
- F. Word of god

2) Praying in the Spirit. v18

3) Watching with perseverance.

- A. Why is perseverance needed for watching? Satan never quits.

B. Why are we to watch and pray?

Because we have an enemy.

He is looking for the times when you are not looking.

Romans 8:18-28 helps to explain the perseverance.

Pray when it is easy and pray when it is hard.

1) 'groanings' = inaudible prayers; inward and unexpressed feelings.

2) Just as creation 'groaneth together', and we 'groan within ourselves',

3) **Likewise** (or in the same manner) the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities 'with groanings'.

The Spirit of God intercedes "for us" to God on our behalf, pleading the infirmity of our flesh.

The reference to "groanings which cannot be uttered" has the idea of sighing which cannot be put into words.

It bespeaks the heartfelt intercession of the Holy Spirit on our behalf.

There are times when we just can't put things into words.

- When you have a loved one that is going through a terrible illness or heartache.

Illus

Several years ago at Ben's graduation the graduates were asked to pray with their parents.

The parents were to pray for them to have a long life of service for the Lord...

For the first few minutes, all I could do is cry.

If he lives a lifetime in living for the Lord, he doesn't yet have an idea what he is going to encounter.

It was a time too tender for words.

I believe the Holy Spirit was taking the full request to the Father.

The same has happened as I've gone to God for Abby over these last few months.

Often I just had to go to God and say, "I don't even know what to ask for. I just want Your will to be done."

Sometimes it was complete silence, as no words came out.

All I had were tears as I opened my heart before the Lord.

4) Why does He help us?

A. We know not what we should pray for as we ought.

B. James. 4:3, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

5) He is our prayer partner. Rom 8:26

A. Notice some principles of 'praying in the Spirit':

1. We don't know what we need.

2. The Holy Spirit **does** know what we need.

3. He will help us in our weaknesses.

4. He will reveal to us our real needs.

5. He will go with us and intercede on our behalf.

B. That means we need to be in harmony with the Holy Spirit when we pray.

Notice: Acts 15:28, 'for it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things.'

1. This verse is part of the letters sent to the Gentile converts in Antioch.

2. The church at Jerusalem was in agreement with the Holy Spirit on the matter.

3. This is a similar principle as found in John 15:7 'if ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you'.

So, 'praying in the Holy Ghost' is when we have gone to the Holy Spirit for help in knowing what we should pray for, and then He goes with us to the Father to present the petitions that we have agreed upon.

Sometimes we don't know what to ask for or what we need. v26

But He knows what we need.

Notice that in v27, the Holy Spirit goes to the Father for us "according to the will of God."

If we are praying in the flesh we may ask for all sunny days, but he knows we need some cloudy ones.

We may want all victories, but he knows that we need a defeat.

This is where we can really understand v28

All things do work together for good when we love God.

1 Thess. 5:18, 'in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.,

III. 1 Cor. 14:14-17

Paul makes it clear that we are to pray and sing with understanding that others might be edified.

He uses several examples, but the idea is that we are to do everything clearly and with understanding.

This is not a call to pray in tongues.

It is a call to pray and sing in such a way that you understand everything that you are saying - and others can understand.

To pray with the Spirit is to allow the Spirit of God to control our prayer life.

To be in harmony with him is to realize answered prayer.

He is our prayer partner...He is our intercessor.

He knows exactly what we need and will help us in our prayers.

Are we in tune with Him?